

ALLTEL CORPORATION

655 15th Street N.W.
Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005

202-783-3970
202-783-3982 fax

ALLTEL

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 8, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

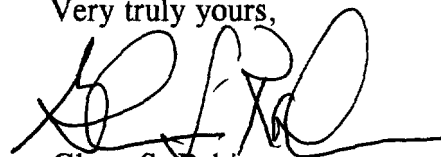
Re: Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act
CC Docket No. 97-213

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. please find an original and four (4) copies of its Comments in connection with the above-referenced matter.

Please address any questions respecting this matter to the undersigned counsel.

Very truly yours,



Glenn S. Rabin

GSR/ss

Enclosures

cc: (w/encl.)
International Transcription Service, Inc.

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MAY - 8 1998

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Communications Assistance) CC Docket No. 97-213
for Law Enforcement Act)

Comments of ALLTEL Communications, Inc.

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.¹ ("ALLTEL") hereby submits its comments in response to the Commission's Public Notice, DA98-762 (released April 20, 1998) in the above-referenced matter. In support thereof, the following is set forth.

ALLTEL supports the Petition for Extension of Compliance Date filed jointly on March 30, 1998 by AT&T Wireless Services, Inc., Lucent Technologies, Inc. and Ericsson, Inc. (the "Joint Petition") and, in particular, the request to extend the current October 25, 1998 compliance date until at least October 24, 2000. The Joint Petition succinctly sets forth the obvious and untenable situation facing telecommunications carriers: an impending deadline² to comply with capabilities, the standards for which

¹ ALLTEL Communications, Inc. is the subsidiary of ALLTEL Corporation through which CMRS, long distance, paging and other competitive telecommunications services are provided to subscribers. Other affiliates and subsidiaries of ALLTEL Corporation provide wireline local exchange service in various states.

² ALLTEL notes, as does the Joint Petition, that as of the current deadline, non-compliant carriers are subject to penalties of \$10,000 per day per violation and the absence of a stable technical standard does

(not to mention the equipment) do not yet exist.³ The Commission is keenly aware of this situation inasmuch it must now arbitrate the standards dispute between interested parties with opposing views as to the scope and capabilities authorized under CALEA. The Commission is keenly aware as well of the lead time required for the development and implementation of the systems needed to comply with CALEA once the standard is set.⁴ Given these factors and others cited in the Joint Petition, ALLTEL believes that a 24 month extension is fully warranted.

In the Public Notice, the Commission seeks comment on the manner in which it can most quickly and efficiently extend the compliance deadline should such an extension be warranted. CALEA compliance cuts across the entire telecommunications industry. Carriers are affected by the absence of a solid standard and risk substantial forfeitures unless the compliance date is extended. As intimated by the Commission itself⁵ it makes little sense to require each carrier to file an individual petition seeking an extension when the entire industry is essentially in the same situation. The Commission, which, as noted above, is well aware of the status of the standards setting process, may either toll the compliance date as suggested in the Joint Petition⁶ or issue

not, without other relief, release carriers from their obligations under CALEA. See Joint Petition at page 11.

³ The Joint Petition also notes that the matter is in the Commission's hands for resolution. See Joint Petition at page 5.

⁴ The Joint Petition, which requests a 24 month extension of the compliance deadline, notes that a period of between 24 and 30 months may be required before manufacturers can release a software package containing new features. See Joint Petition at fn.5.

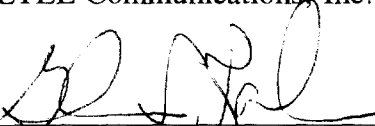
⁵ See Public Notice at page 4.

⁶ See Joint Petition at page 11.

a blanket extension for all telecommunications carriers. The tolling or extension period should be a full 24 months unless the Commission is presented with irrefutable evidence that CALEA compliance may be accomplished by all telecommunications carriers within a shorter time frame. In ALLTEL's view, either of these two options best serve the carriers' interest in stability as well as the interests of administrative efficiency and conservation of the Commission's resources.

Respectfully submitted,

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.

By: 

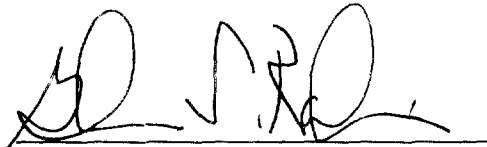
Glenn S. Rabin
Federal Regulatory Counsel

ALLTEL Corporate Services, Inc.
655 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 220
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 783-3976

Dated: May 8, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Glenn S. Rabin, do certify that on May 8, 1998 copies of the foregoing
Comments of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. were either hand-delivered, or deposited in the
U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid to the persons on the attached service list.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn S. Rabin', is written over a horizontal line.

Glenn S. Rabin

Robert S. Foosaner/Lawrence R. Krevor
Laurel L. Holloway
Nextel Communications, Inc.
Suite 425
1450 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Roseanna De Maria
AT&T Wireless Services
32 Avenue of the Americas
Room 1731
New York, NY 10013

Elizabeth R. Sachs, Esquire
Lukas, McGowan, Nace & Gutierrez
1111 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Electronic Privacy Information Center
666 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Suite 301
Washington, DC 20003

Peter M. Connolly
Koteen & Naftalin
United States Cellular Corporation
1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Henry M. Rivera/Larry S. Solomon, J. Thomas Nolan
M. Tamber Christian
Metricom, Inc.
Ginsburg, Feldman & Bress, Chtd.
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Michael K. Kurtis/Jeanne W. Stockman
Kurtis & Associates, PC
2000 M Street, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Mark C. Rosenblum/Ava B. Kleinman
Seth S. Gross
295 North Maple Avenue
Room 3252J1
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Kevin C. Gallagher
360° Communications Company
8725 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Barry Steinhart/A Cassidy Sehgal
William J. Brennan
Fellow American Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad Street
18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Electronic Frontier Foundation
1550 Bryant Street
Suite 725
San Francisco, CA 94103-4832

James R. Roche
Globecast North America, Inc.
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 880
Washington, DC 20001

Eric W. De Silva
Stephen J. Rosen
Wiley, Rein & Fielding
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Caressa D. Bennet/Dorothy E. Cukier
Rural Telecommunications Group
Bennet & Bennet, PLLC
1019 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

Stuart Polikoff
Lisa M. Zaina
OPASTCO
21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Mark J. Golden/Mary E. Madison
Personal Communications Industry Association
500 Montgomery Street
Suite 700
Alexandria, VA 22314-1561

Carole C. Harris/Christine M. Gill/Anne L. Fruehauf
Southern Communications Services
McDermott, Will & Emery
600 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

M. Robert Sutherland
Theodore R. Kingsley
Bellsouth Corporation
1155 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Suite 1700
Atlanta, GA 30309-3610

John T. Scott, III
Bell Atlantic Mobile, Inc.
Crowell & Moring, LLP
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Richard McKenna, HQE03J36
GTE Service Corporation
PO Box 152092
Irving, TX 75015-2092

James D. Ellis/Robert M. Lynch
Durward D. Dupre, Lucille M. Mates/Frank C. Magill
SBC Communications, Inc.
175 East Houston
Room 1258
San Antonio, TX 78205

Mary McDermott/Linda Kent/Keith Townsend
Hance Haney
USTA
1401 H Street, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

William R. Roughton, Jr.
Primeco Personal Communications, L.P.
601 13th Street
Suite 320 South
Washington, DC 20005

Judith St. Ledger-Roty/Paul G. Madison
Paging Network, Inc.
Kelley, Drye & Warren, LLP
1200 19th Street, N.W.
Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Michael P. Goggin
Bellsouth Cellular Corp.
1100 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Suite 910
Atlanta, GA 30309-4599

Stewart A. Baker/Thomas M. Barba
Maury D. Shenk/L. Benjamin Ederington
Motorola, Inc.
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

J. Lloyd Nault, II
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
4300 BellSouth Center
675 West Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30375

Richard C. Barth/Mary E. Brooner
Motorola, Inc.
1350 I Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Kathleen Q. Abernathy/David A. Gross
Donna L. Bethea
Airtouch Communications, Inc.
1818 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Gail L. Polivy
GTE Service Corporation
1850 M Street, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Stewart A. Baker/Thomas M. Barba
Brent H. Weingardt/J. Benjamin Ederington
Telecommunications Industry Association
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Kathryn M. Krause
Edward M. Chavez
US West, Inc.
1020 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Teresa Marrero
Teleport Communications Group, Inc.
Two Teleport Drive
Staten Island, NY 10311

Carolyn G. Morris
US Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigations
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Stanton McCandlis
Electronic Frontier Foundation
1550 Bryant Street
Suite 725
San Francisco, CA 94103-4832

Grant Seiffert/Matthew J. Flanigan
Telecommunications Industry Association
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004

Dan L. Poole/John H. Harwood, II/Samir Jain
US West, Inc.
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
2445 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Emilio W. Cividanes
Omnipoint Communications, Inc.
Piper & Marbury, LLP
1200 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Jerry Berman, Daniel J. Weitzmer
James X. Dempsy
Center for Democracy and Technology
1634 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Andy Oram
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
PO Box 717
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Michael Altschul
Randall S. Coleman
Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Gloria Tristani, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 826
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.,
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

David Wye
Technical Advisor
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W.
Room 5002
Washington, DC 20554

Geraldine Matise, Chief, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Division
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 235
Washington, DC 20554

David Ward, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 210
Washington, DC 20554

Lawrence Petak
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 230
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Michael Powell, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Christopher J. Wright
General Counsel
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 614
Washington, DC 20554

Daniel Phythyon, Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W.
Room 5002
Washington, DC 20554

A. Richard Metzger, Chief
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.,
Room 500B
Washington, DC 20554

Kent Nilsson, Deputy Division Chief
Common Carrier Bureau - Network Services Division
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.,
Room 235
Washington, DC 20554

Marty Schwimmer, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 290B
Washington, DC 20554

Charles Iseman, Policy Division
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 230
Washington, DC 20554

Jim Burtle
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 230
Washington, DC 20535

Stephen W. Preston, Assistant Attorney General
Douglas N. Letter, Appellate Litigation Counsel
Civil Division, Department of Justice
601 D Street, N.W.
Room 9106
Washington, DC 20530

H. Michael Warren, Section Chief
CALEA Implementation Section
Federal Bureau of Investigation
14800 Conference Center Drive
Suite 300
Chantilly, VA 22021

Stewart A. Baker
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Larry R. Parkinson
General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

Matthew J. Flanigan, President
Telecommunications Industry Association
2500 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201-3834

Jerry Berman
James X. Dempsey
Center for Democracy and Technology
1634 Eye Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006

International Transcription Service, Inc.
1231 20th Street, N.W.
First Floor
Washington, DC 20036